

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A dishwasher for washing dishes, comprising:

a tub comprising a peripheral wall defining an open-faced wash chamber;

a door for selectively closing the open-face of the wash chamber;

a utensil basket positionable within the wash chamber and comprising a bottom

5 wall, a peripheral wall extending upwardly from the bottom wall to define an open-top utensil holding space, and multiple tines located in the utensil holding space for holding utensils placed in the utensil basket for washing;

a water spray assembly located within the wash chamber such that the water spray assembly sprays liquid into the utensil holding space through the bottom wall of the

10 utensil basket;

at least one side sprayer located in the wash chamber such that the side sprayer sprays liquid laterally into the utensil holding space; and

an adjustable utensil carrier located within the utensil holding space and adjustable relative to the bottom of the utensil basket to form an inclination angle relative

15 to the bottom wall of the utensil basket such that a utensil supported by the adjustable utensil carrier can be positioned such that a food contact surface of the utensil is exposed to direct spray from both the water spray assembly and the at least one side sprayer.

2. The dishwasher according to claim 1, wherein the inclination angle is approximately 35 degrees.

3. The dishwasher according to claim 1, wherein the utensil basket is movably mounted to the tub for movement between a stored position, where the utensil basket is completely received within the wash chamber, and a load position, where at least a portion of the utensil basket extends beyond the open-face of the wash chamber.

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4. The dishwasher according to claim 1, wherein the adjustable utensil carrier is moveable to a cleaning position where the adjustable utensil carrier is at an acute angle

relative to the bottom of the utensil basket to form the angle of inclination.

5. The dishwasher according to claim 4, wherein the adjustable utensil carrier comprises a support wall that is moveable between a stored position generally perpendicular to the bottom of the utensil basket and the cleaning position.

6. The dishwasher according to claim 5, wherein the support wall is pivotally mounted to the utensil basket.

7. The dishwasher according to claim 6, wherein the support wall is hingedly mounted to the peripheral wall.

8. The dishwasher according to claim 5, wherein the support wall comprises a wire frame wall.

9. The dishwasher according to claim 8, wherein the wire frame wall spans the utensil holding space.

10. The dishwasher according to claim 9, wherein the peripheral wall comprises opposing side walls and the wire frame wall extends between the opposing side walls.

11. The dishwasher according to claim 10, and further comprising at least one detent latch mounted to one of the side walls and the detent latch having a detent in which a portion of the side wall is received to hold the wire frame wall in the cleaning position.

12. The dishwasher according to claim 11, wherein the detent latch has multiple detents to define multiple use positions, with the wire frame wall forming a different acute angle relative to the bottom wall for each of the use positions.

13. The dishwasher according to claim 5, and further comprising an actuator coupling the support wall to the peripheral wall for moving the support wall into the cleaning

position.

14. The dishwasher according to claim 13, wherein the actuator comprises an over-center latch for holding the support wall in the use position.

5 15. The dishwasher according to claim 14, wherein the actuator comprises a pivot mechanism comprising a lever, a pivot, and at least one cam, the pivot being pivotably attached to the adjustable utensil carrier, the lever adapted to extend from the pivot into the adjustable utensil carrier, and the at least one cam adapted to extend from the pivot to engage the utensil basket, the pivot mechanism being pivotable between a first pivot position and a second pivot position corresponding to the cleaning position.

16. The dishwasher according to claim 15, wherein the support wall defines an adjustable utensil carrier having a utensil holding space adapted to support a cooking utensil within the utensil holding space.

5 17. The dishwasher according to claim 16, wherein, in the first pivot position, the lever extends into the utensil support space and the at least one cam is below the pivot, and in the second pivot position, the lever is retracted away from the utensil support space and the at least one cam is above the pivot to form the over-center latch.

18. The dishwasher according to claim 17, wherein, in the first pivot position, the lever extends into the utensil support space and the at least one cam is below the lever, and in the second pivot position, the lever is retracted away from the utensil support space and the at least one cam is above the lever.

5 19. The dishwasher according to claim 18 wherein placement of the cooking utensil in the adjustable utensil carrier pivots the lever and the at least one cam from the first pivot position to the second pivot position, and the adjustable utensil carrier from the first rack position to the second rack position.

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20. The dishwasher according to claim 5, wherein the support wall defines a utensil support space adapted to support a cooking utensil within the utensil holding space.

21. A utensil basket for a dishwasher comprising at least one side sprayer and a rotating water spray assembly for washing utensils, the utensil basket comprising:

a bottom wall;

a peripheral wall extending upwardly from the bottom wall to define an open-top
5 utensil holding space;

multiple tines located in the utensil holding space for holding utensils placed in the utensil basket for washing; and

an adjustable utensil carrier located within the utensil holding space and adjustable relative to the bottom of the utensil basket to form an inclination angle relative
10 to the bottom wall of the utensil basket such that a utensil supported by the adjustable utensil carrier can be positioned such that a food contact surface of the utensil is exposed to direct spray from both the water spray assembly and the at least one side sprayer.

22. The utensil basket according to claim 21, wherein the inclination angle is 35 degrees.

23. The utensil basket according to claim 21, wherein the adjustable utensil carrier is moveable to a cleaning position where the adjustable utensil carrier is at an acute angle relative to the bottom of the utensil basket to form the angle of inclination.

24. The utensil basket according to claim 23, wherein the adjustable utensil carrier comprises a support wall that is moveable between a stored position generally perpendicular to the bottom of the utensil basket and the cleaning position.

25. The utensil basket according to claim 24, wherein the support wall is pivotally mounted to the utensil basket.

26. The utensil basket according to claim 25, wherein the support wall is hingedly

mounted to the peripheral wall.

27. The utensil basket according to claim 24, wherein the support wall comprises a wire frame wall.

28. The utensil basket according to claim 27, wherein the wire frame wall spans the utensil holding space.

29. The utensil basket according to claim 28, wherein the peripheral wall comprises opposing side walls and the wire frame wall extends between the opposing side walls.

30. The utensil basket according to claim 29, and further comprising at least one detent latch mounted to one of the side walls and the detent latch having a detent in which a portion of the side wall is received to hold the wire frame wall in the cleaning position.

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31. The utensil basket according to claim 30, wherein the detent latch has multiple detents to define multiple use positions, with the wire frame wall forming a different acute angle relative to the bottom wall for each of the use positions.

32. The utensil basket according to claim 24, and further comprising an actuator coupling the support wall to the peripheral wall for moving the support wall into the cleaning position.

33. The utensil basket according to claim 32, wherein the actuator comprises an over-center latch for holding the support wall in the use position.

34. The utensil basket according to claim 33, wherein the actuator comprises a pivot mechanism comprising a lever, a pivot, and at least one cam, the pivot being pivotably attached to the adjustable utensil carrier, the lever adapted to extend from the pivot into the adjustable utensil carrier, and the at least one cam adapted to extend from the pivot to

- 5 engage the utensil basket, the pivot mechanism being pivotable between a first pivot position and a second pivot position corresponding to the cleaning position.

35. The utensil basket according to claim 34, wherein the support wall defines an adjustable utensil carrier having a utensil holding space adapted to support a cooking utensil within the utensil holding space.

36. The utensil basket according to claim 35, wherein, in the first pivot position, the lever extends into the utensil support space and the at least one cam is below the pivot, and in the second pivot position, the lever is retracted away from the utensil support space and the at least one cam is above the pivot to form the over-center latch.

37. The utensil basket according to claim 36, wherein, in the first pivot position, the lever extends into the utensil support space and the at least one cam is below the lever, and in the second pivot position, the lever is retracted away from the utensil support space and the at least one cam is above the lever.

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38. The utensil basket according to claim 37 wherein placement of the cooking utensil in the adjustable utensil carrier pivots the lever and the at least one cam from the first pivot position to the second pivot position, and the adjustable utensil carrier from the first rack position to the second rack position.

39. The utensil basket according to claim 24, wherein the support wall defines a utensil support space adapted to support a cooking utensil within the utensil holding space.